
A
VINDICATION
OF THE
Ministerial Conduct,
OF HIS
Grace the Duke of Dorset
IN
IRELAND.

(By a Servant of the Crown in that Kingdom.)

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IN
H. Sackville (L.C.) Duke of Dorset.

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LONDON: Printed by M. GRIFFITHS, in St.
Paul's Church Yard, M,DCC,LV.

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Grace the Duke of DORSET, &c.

THE *Contests*, or more properly *Seditions*, subsisting for a few Years pass'd in *Ireland*, becoming daily more and more the *Subject* of Conversation here; and a wrong Opinion of the *proceedings* of the *Government*, there, gaining ground among Persons of the best Understanding, I thought it incumbent on me, to give a fair Account to the *Publick* of the *rise and progress* of these *Contests*, by what Arts they were fomented and rais'd to such a Pitch, as at last to render it impracticable for the *Government* to carry,

ry on the King's Business in the regular *Parliamentary* way.

HAD these *Contests* been (as they ought to be) unnotic'd here, and the *People* of that *Island* left to *squabble* among themselves, without our taking part in their Quarrels, I should not have thought it my duty to trouble either the *Publick*, or myself with this *Narrative*, but by some new *Fatality* or other, every *Transaction* in that *Kingdom* has of late been canvass'd here, the Conduct of the *Governors* of it arraigned and try'd in every *Coffee-house* and *Club-house*, with as much warmth as if we were *Parties* concern'd.

THIS *Humour*, (for I can call it no better a Name,) if not *timely* check'd may produce Consequences of the utmost *Prejudice* to his *Majesty's* Affairs in both *Kingdoms*, as nothing can so much encourage the *People* of *Ireland* to prove refractory to their *Governors*, as their being persuaded, that they have secur'd the attention of *England*.

IN treating this *Subject*, I shall wave all *Considerations* relative to the various kinds of *Revenue* in that *Kingdom*, how and when they were settl'd, together with the usage of *Parliament* and *Precedents* for disposing of any

any surplus Money in the Treasury there; as all these Points have already been clear'd up to the Satisfaction of all *impartial Persons* by the CONSIDERATIONS, and *Doctor Leland's Book*, and all People of Sense are convinc'd, that the *Government* insist'd on no *more* in these particulars, than what the *Commons* last Session ought to have comply'd with, as in all former Sessions they had done the same.

To give my Reader a KEY for the better opening to him the Meaning of some *positions*, I may hereafter lay down, I must acquaint him, that the Constitution of *Ireland* is essentially different from ours in many Particulars; tho' the uninform'd Author of Letters in the Magazine, has taken upon him to say, "*they are exactly the same, so far as is consistant with Ireland's being a dependant Kingdom.*" The forms indeed of Business are the same in both Houses, but then the Privy Council there forms a Part of the *Legislature*, and the most significant perhaps, as all Bills to be presented to his *M—y*, must pass thro' their Hands, and they may without assigning any Reason drop them at pleasure.

AGAIN, all the Revenues of *Ireland* are Lump'd, but in *England* they are sepearate.

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The Revenue for Support of the Crown, is distinct from the Publick Revenue: In *Ireland*, the whole Revenue is in the *King*, by a Constitutional Trust, and is universally and expressly call'd and still'd the *King's Revenue*.

Agreeable to which form of Speaking, all *Money Bills* begin with a Petition, *that his M—y of his Bounty, of his Royal Goodness, &c. would be pleas'd that it should be enacted, &c.* which seems to prove, that the *K—* is to consider his Parliament there only as a Council, but has the right over all in himself.

THERE are other Differences not so material, which I might mention, very pertinent to my Purpose, but as I propose being as short in this Paper, as is consistent with giving a clear Idea of the whole Affair, I proceed to observe. That in the beginning of these Contests, the Publick was no way concern'd, it was only a Struggle between a few Families for Power and Places, in which they were gratify'd by turns, and the *King's* Business, was done without much difficulty till the present *S—r* had got so strong a Party in the *C—ns*, that he engross'd all Favours to himself and his Friends, and would not suffer any *Bill* to pass the House of *C—ns*, tho' never so necessary for the good

good of the *Kingdom*, unless he liked it, and was pleased to think it for the Service of his M—y and his Subjects there.

SEVERAL Chief Governors saw the inconvenience of such a power in the Hands of any Subject, in *Ireland*, and particularly his G—e the D—D— mention'd it to his M—y's Friends there, as a Clog on the Power of a V. R—y, *so long ago as the Year 1735*, and resolv'd, as Opportunity offer'd, to break such a Power in the C—ns, and prevent, by a proper Plan, the like Power rising again in that House.

LITTLE had been done to effect this Design by his Successors. The S—p—r grew more and more powerful every Day, till on his G—e the D— of D—t's going over in 1751, he plainly perceived, that all Respect due from the People, to his M—y's L—d L—t, was transfer'd to those Persons they had been taught to believe were their Vindicators, the Assertors of their Rights and Privileges, and I know not what ; so that his G—e, found it *absolutely necessary to call in Persons able to Support him*, and Rescue his *Administration*, from the Contempt it was falling into.

THE S—p—r, as his G—e freely owned on all Occasions, had done the K—g's Business very well, but then, he would have it

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done

done his own way, and would be gratify'd in every thing he ask'd for his *Friends*, under Colour that, " He could not pretend to do the K——g's Business, unless his M——y was pleas'd to let him judge what *Gentlemen*, had most Interest in their *Country* to serve him, and would accordingly bind them to his Service, by the additional Tye of Gratitude for particular *Boons*, as well as by their *known* Loyalty and Duty."

THIS doubtless had a specious Appearance, but under this Pretence, the whole *Kingdom* might become one Man's private Property, or at least, that of his *Friends*, for he desir'd nothing for himself or Family.

HIS G——e very justly thought it high time to put a Stop to this *exorbitant* Power of the S——p——r, and had gradually brought over to his own way of Thinking, some very considerable Persons in the *House of Commons*, and it was judg'd expedient to make a tryal of our Strength on some Questions of less Importance, before we open'd the Scene that has since been Acted over with such various Acceptation; but we were greatly out number'd on every Division; so his G——e wisely judg'd it would be the more prudent Method to let the *Session* of 1751, pass over without any extraordinary Attempt in Parliament, and in the Interval

Interval of the ensuing *Prorogation*, (which is always about a Year and a half,) model the House of C——ns to a better Temper and Disposition. This it was thought would be the easier to compass, as the House had shewn some Moderation in *two or three Points of Consequence*. The first in passing the *Money Bill* unanimously, tho' alter'd here. A second in stopping short in their Prosecution of Mr. N——l, when they had it sufficiently in their Power to expel him that very Session; and thirdly, dropping a Design which had been talk'd of without Doors of rejecting the *New-Style*.

WHAT induc'd the same House of Commons to run Counter to their own Measures in the Session of 1753, can only be accounted for by Persons who had a share in the Administration of Affairs in *Ireland*, and as I was honour'd with a Place of Trust there, I think I am able to give full Satisfaction on that Head, and shall take up the Business from the beginning of the Contest.

MR. N——l, En—g—r General, was chosen Member for the County of *Wexford*, 1751, and having resolv'd, (as all Officers of the Crown ought,) to act in concert with the *Castle Interest*, his Antagonist on the Election was Spirited up to Petition the House on an *undue Return*, but by proper Applications he was taken off, and

the Sp—r's Party so far defeated in their Design of *voiding* the *Election*, which to this Day they have not forgiven, and Mr. N—l was mark'd out for a *Sacrifice*, before there was the least Whisper of his Misconduct or any Complaint of him in discharge of his Trust.

It became then the L—d L—t's duty to protect an Officer of the C—n, *maliciously Prosecuted*, only for deserting a set of Men who wanted to imbroid his M—y's Affairs, and render the G—t odious, as will appear presently to have been their Design, if administered by any Hands but their own.

ALL private Efforts towards stopping this Prosecution were fruitless, and an *enquiry into* his *embezzlements* of the Money granted for repairing and Building *Barracks*, was mov'd for, and a *Committee* for that Purpose appointed. On the strictest Scrutiny he appear'd *innocent*; and all that came out against him amounted to no more than his having acted *imprudently* with regard to his *Contracts*, and for want of *skill* in the smaller Business of an *Architect*, having left the *Barracks* in some parts *unstaunch'd, unpointed, unslated*, and the like, (for into such minute Particulars, his Adversaries very diligently enquir'd,) and this in very *aggravating Terms* was reported to the *House*, and Resolutions form'd thereon.

THEIR Design in not expelling him then, as they did next Session, was no more than to obtain
a Character

a Character of Moderation, and insinuate some Respect to his M——y in leaving to his Disposal, an Officer, whom they had censur'd, when every other *Resolution* of theirs, savoured of the highest Disrespect, which to mention no more Instances, appear'd in the *Remonstrance*, at the end of the *Session*, 1751, and their Petitioning his M——y to Augment the Pay of the Army, 1753, which ought to have been first mov'd by Authority from his M——y, and was a direct Invasion on his Prerogative and insult on his Dignity.

BEFORE the meeting of the *Parliament* in 1753, Mr. N——/ had resigned his Place, but as the Faction had no other plausible Cause to assign for their Opposing the G——t, than his Embezzelments, &c. they resumed their former Proceedings, and expell'd him *Novem. 23d*, 1753, in defiance of every Argument could be offer'd in his Behalf, or even being at the Trouble to answer them any other way, than by noise and Numbers. Indeed his Defence was unanswerable, for first he had presented a Memorial to the L——ds J——ces of *Ireland*, to desire they would acquaint him *what Repairs were wanting*, and that on such Information he would make them good, to which their *Ex——cies* returning no answer, he was warranted to conclude that no *Repairs were wanting*. Then he offered his whole Estate to be vested in Trustees to make good his Engagements, worth £. 3000. per ann. but this they re-
jected

Nevil

jected under frivolous Pretences of Settlements, and laid the stress of their Argument for expelling him, on his *contempt* of the Orders of the House *last Session*; a thing never heard of before.

AFTER this instance of their *Power*, as well as *Temper*, it was resolv'd, that no Stone should be left unturn'd, to secure a *Majority* in the House, for passing the *Money Bill*, as it should come with a clause, acknowledging the necessity of having his M——y's previous Consent, signify'd in the Preamble of the Bill, without which, the *Commons* could have no right to go into any Deliberations about disposing of Money before granted, and in the actual receipt of the Exchequer.

PREVIOUS Consent in this Sense, both in *England* and *Ireland*, is of antient Right, the Prerogative of the Crown, tho' almost disused here, for want of Occasions to exert it, but has often been exerted in *Ireland*, tho' not in such precise and express Words, as were now thought necessary for Support of his M——y's Dignity, and to leave no Room for any reasonable Objection, or apprehension of bad Consequences, the Bill came accompanied with a *Letter* from the *Privy Council here*, to the *Irish Privy Council*, signifying his M——y's Pleasure, that it should stand part of the Preamble. A Copy of this Letter, (as it could not with Order be produc'd in the House,) was given to every *Member* privately, and indeed dispersed

dispersed throughout the whole *Kingdom of Ireland*, but did not influence any one Member's Opinion, so obstinately were they bent on Opposition. His G——e farther thought it prudent to warn all *Members* in Places of Trust and Profit to take care what they did, and to many of the Faction, he promised in his M——y's Name, a bountiful acceptance of their Loyal Services, in case they Voted along with his M——y's true Friends on this important Occasion. This last Argument had some Weight, but not enough to carry the Bill through, which was rejected by a small Majority 17th of December, 1753. These Attempts having miscarried in the manner here related, it is not easy to describe to what a height of Influence the Faction was raised, and the whole Body of the People, influenced by them to make Rejoicings over all *Ireland*, as if they had been rescued from the most imminent Dangers, preserved in their Rights and Liberties, delivered from *Papery and Slavery*, and other things equally absurd and Seditious.

THIS was the whole Dispute about which such Clamours have been raised, his M——y's Dignity insulted in the Persons of his G——r and principal Officers there, and on Account of which it became absolutely Necessary to leave the Business of that Kingdom unfinished for two Years, rather than afford the enraged *Commons* an opportunity

opportunity by Meeting immediately, of going into Extremes, which might have ended in something disagreeable or desperate, as the People were already ripe for shaking off their Dependence, and disowning their being a *Province to England*.

I SHOULD imagine it needless to say more in Vindication of the Conduct of his G——e, the D— D— during the two last *Sessions of Parliament in Ireland*, were it not *objected to him here*, as an unpardonable Fault in his Conduct and Judgment, that he should undertake *such Services* without being first assur'd of a *Majority* on his side, among the Commons of *Ireland*, especially as the ill Success, he had in 1751, render'd caution in this Point, the more indispensibly necessary. To which I answer, that he went over to *Ireland* with every probable and promising circumstance in his Favour.

His former Administration had been very agreeable there till 1751, he had many Favours to bestow, and could not imagine the S—p—r would prove *deaf* to the *Reasons* he should lay before him for *uniting* with the *principal Persons* employed in his M——y's Service, and concur in carrying on the *publick Business*, under his G——e, especially, as most of them had declared, they were *convinced* of his G——ce's being a Person

son of great Worth and Honour, as well as his having at Heart nothing so much as the true Interest of *Ireland*, in the Station with which his M—— had honoured him; and I particularly remember in a Conversation his G—— had with Mr. P——, who could not be brought to recommend his going over to hold the last *Session*, without full Conviction of his being able to do his *Business* quietly there, that his G—— told him, he had one hundred and twenty-two devoted to him in the House; and on looking back twenty Years, I find the highest Number on the side of the *Majority*, in that *House of Commons*, to have been but a hundred and thirteen; so that supposing he *Listed* no more, he should have on this *calculation*, fourteen sure on his Side, and if he could bring over seven more, should have a *Majority* of twenty-eight, which fully satisfy'd the other, and indeed, it is next to a *Miracle* that his G—— should fail, and had it pleas'd his M—— to have enlarg'd his *discretionary Power*, he could not have miss'd.

It has been wondered why a *Kingdom* should be thrown into Distraction, to carry new *Clauses* which could no *further operate*, than to set the Prerogative in a strong and distinct Light, which was acknowledged often before; but to whom is the Distraction to be Charg'd? to the opposition

surely, for had his G—e met with no Opposition, it is clear and evident all had been peaceful there, and good Harmony subsisted. It is but an ill Apology for the Majority to say, that something farther was intended, if this Point had been carryed; for if Conjectures are to be allow'd as Arguments, there must be Opposition to G—t, as long as suspicious Persons compose a part of the Legislature.

I SHALL add no more, but that it is notorious to all the *Kingdom of Ireland*, that when the S—p—r had Power, which he chiefly used in recommending *Sheriffs*, he offered none to the G——t for Approbation, but Enemies to our Interest. And his G——e on the other hand, made it a point in all the Promotions recommended to be made, especially in Places of Distinction, and his Interest at Elections, to recommend none but *Persons*, who were not only themselves uniformly attach'd to the illustrious Succession, but whose *Fathers* and *Grand Fathers* had been eminent Sticklers for Government, in the latter Years of *Queen Anne*, in order by Suppressing Tumults, to Pave an easy way for that Glorious Line to come in.

A GENUINE

A GENUINE

LETTER

TO A

PERSON

IN A

HIGH OFFICE

IN

LONDON,

Dated, DUBLIN, Nov. 22, 1753.

SIR,

I AM sat down to review your Letters of the 4th and 15th Inst. to both which this will include an Answer, as well as be my Apology for delaying it, till now. I do not wonder you observe, that the Expectations I gave you, of hearing our Affairs should be in a *better Train*, are every Day lessening; for to speak Truth, I find we have been mislead *ourselves*, and the Persons we had put *highest* in our List, after the first Day of meeting, are now doubtful; and the *doubtfuls*, by a *late Tryal* we made, are now clearly against us. On the 16th a Motion was made in the

House, and after a long Debate, we carryed it by a Majority of *three*, which tho' it has highly raised the spirits of *our Friends*, and seems to many, a sure earnest of Success, I own from many Observations then made, wears to me but an unpromising Aspect. The *Opposition* did not seem to be in the least cast down at the Tokens of Triumph, express'd by our Divisions; and I could read plainly in the *S-p-r's* Look, a conscious Assurance it should not long continue, as we experienced a few Days after; for when the second Question was put, we lost it by two.

Jones, Nevil

I AM not without Hopes we shall still protect the *En-g-r*, as some who were against us before, are secured already, and others who we know are *accessible*, will be attempted, if we want them, at the very minute, and not sooner, as they are a kind of People who must be promptly dealt with, and our FUND for these Purposes is very nearly exhausted.

D. Argyle

BUT for God's sake alter not a Letter in the *Linen Bill*, and the best Excuse you can invent, must be made to A—e, and assure him he must wait for a more favourable time. It would not only render his Design impossible to be hereafter compassed, but risk if not ruin both the —'s Interest and our own here, but may be safely introduced into the B—ll on your side under a Notion

tion of remedying the Evils arising from having *Irish Linens* imposed on *England*, for those of *Scotch Fabrick*, as they are in fact, by Weekly exportations made from *Belfast* and the Parts adjacent to *Scotland*, so that your Bill will do his Business, without making it extend to *Ireland*.

We are of opinion here, that the *Letter from the Lords*, should be the last Engine to be played, as tho' from the surprize it will occasion by its *peremptory novelty*, and the Terror into which it will fling the *daftardly*, as well as work in the moderate an Apprehension of a total Rupture if rejected; it may possibly do us very considerable Service, yet if they should get over the Influence we expect it should have on them, and be bold enough to reject the Bill notwithstanding, they will not be actuated by respect for us again. The issue of to-morrow's debate will plainly shew, whether it will be wanted or not, and accordingly as that shall be favourable or otherwise to us, it will be a *sure chart* to steer by hereafter; if we lose it, (which I hardly think possible,) then what (a) I mention'd to you before, will be absolutely necessary, not only to protect us on this side, but stop what we apprehend on yours. You must begin immediately to prepare my Lord for it, and he may assure HIS _____ that the Augmentation

(a) Pro — g — n

mentation of the Pay, shall be brought about solely by us, which will smoothe the way to a (b) Concession in the other, which you tell me he is so obstinately bent against.

I NEED say no more, but repeat it to you, that the thing will be indispensably necessary, if what may, does (but I don't apprehend should) come to pass; you know as well I, that this overture must be made, when (c) 19 is in the Country, which by a Letter I got Yesterday from 7, he will soon be for a few Days; and let my Lord tell him before he goes, that Things shall remain *untouch'd* till his return: You know why he can't stir after it is done, tho' if he guessed our Design, he would prevent us, and let my Lord and him settle the Affair between themselves, as they like; we are so used to have his Suspicions laid on us, that this will not encrease the Burden much, if he should expostulate with him on our Chapter, which I think he will not, but rather on his own and L^d C[—]'s.

Arrmagh — THE Election we shall undoubtedly carry, let other matters go as they will, which will be agreeable to 7, tho' an invidious turn has already been prepared for our expected Success in that Point, and it has been sneeringly said to me,

“ what

(b) Pro—g—n.

(c) Cyphers for certain Names.

“ what if you do? You will only shew you can do
 “ your own Business, but not THE _____’s.”

AT present we are embarrassed for want of explicit Power, I will repent his Caution, and had we free scope, I would pawn my Life for the Event, notwithstanding the run that is against us without Doors, and the Danger to which I might expose myself, by popular Disappointment fomented into Rage. I despise them for my part, tho’ 31 is *timorous*; and in their highest frenzy, I should face them unmov’d; they are naturally a disorderly People, and *Concessions* but raise their Insolence.

COURAGE and *Constancy*, will at all times subdue them, especially, if the *Order* I desired can be obtain’d, of bringing the 6 Regiments to Town, and quartering them in the College; and if we fail in our Hopes for To-morrow, it will be the more necessary, as then being flushed with Success, a Mob may really be dangerous. When the Preamble comes in Question, about which the very Chairmen are prating, I shall be insulted as I pass by them, as the AUTHOR of all the *Evils they dread*.

THESE things ought to be truly represented, and strongly urg’d as a Reason for not sticking at the Proposals we have made, and if we can proceed whilst we are here under the additional protection of the Troops I have mentioned, in
 which,

which, I would have included, all the *Scotch* in this *Kingdom*, it will be of less Consequence what Disorders happen in our Absence.

THE *Odium* conceived against us, is never to be removed by any popular Acts, or any thing to be carry'd by any smooth Methods whatever, the B—ll must be crammed down their Throats, and the P—t Proro—g'd; if they recover Courage to remonstrate, a Law as in *Jamaica* must take place for a while. The *Scotch Military* long for it, as well as most of that Nation here, who are ready to join our *Y—e Friends*, and to Support us and the Cause; I shall write after To-morrow's decision, if we can't get the Question put off, which we are to try for, and at present, have no more to add, but that you will be mindful of my Friend C—m's affair, and get my Lord A—e to renew his Instances to Lord C—n, the Money shall not be wanting, as Renewals before the time will come in.

Yours, &c.

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F I N I S.

